

In a joint effort to combat financial crime in Lebanon and strengthen national capacities in this critical field, the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB) at the American University of Beirut (AUB) launched a specialized masterclass training session titled "Combating Trade-Based Financial Crimes" in partnership with the Internal Security Forces (ISF) and subject matter experts from MENA FCCG; sponsored by OMT.

The masterclass aimed to enhance the technical expertise of ISF officers and personnel in identifying and investigating Trade-Based Financial Crimes (TBFC)—one of the most complex and evolving forms of financial misconduct worldwide.

The opening session was attended by Brigadier General Ziad Kaed Bey, head of the Judicial Police Unit, representing Major General Raed Abdallah, director general of the ISF; Dr. Yusuf Sidani, dean of the Suliman S. Olayan School of Business (OSB); and Naji Abou Zeid, chief executive officer of OMT. Also present were Brigadier General Joseph Moussallem, Head of the ISF Public Relations Division, along with a number of participating officers and members of the Force.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Yusuf Sidani, Dean of OSB, highlighted the value of this partnership. "This initiative reflects AUB's and OSB's commitment to working hand in hand with security institutions and the private sector to empower ISF members with the knowledge and skills needed to combat financial crime and protect society," he said. "Despite the challenges Lebanon faces, investing in professional and

ethical competencies remains the path toward positive change."

Naji Abou Zeid, CEO of OMT, noted the timeliness of the collaboration, coinciding with the International Fraud Awareness Week. He said, "We are proud to collaborate with the ISF for the third consecutive year in awareness campaigns that help fortify our society and protect it from becoming a victim of financial fraud." He reaffirmed that compliance at OMT is both a duty and a commitment, emphasizing that "our money transfers strictly adhere to the terms and conditions set by Western Union and local and international regulatory bodies."

Brigadier General Ziad Kaed Bey, head of the Judicial Police Unit, underlined the importance of the tripartite collaboration between the ISF, AUB, and OMT, describing it as a model of constructive partnerships between the security sector, academia, and private sector. Addressing the participating officers, he urged them to make the most of the training, stressing that "the field today demands both action and knowledge, which have become essential to performing daily security duties."

It is worth noting that the Combatting Trade-Based Financial Crimes course is a professional diploma launched by OSB with the partnership of the MENA Financial Crime Compliance Group (MENA FCCG), and the Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime (GCFFC).



BRIGADIER GENERAL ZIAD KAED BEY

HEAD OF LEBANON JUDICIAL POLICE UNIT





MENA FCCG TBFC SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS FROM ARAB BANK

(LEFT TO RIGHT:

AYMAN FAKHREDDIN

VP HEAD OF SANCTIONS AND EMBARGO

ABEER TADROS

HEAD OF TRADE FINANCE LINE OF BUSINESS

MOHAMMAD DABBOUR

SVP DIRECTOR OF GROUP REGULATORY COMPLIANCE)

ABOUT THE SULIMAN S. OLAYAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (OSB) AT AUB

A leading business school in the MENA region, OSB is dedicated to advancing knowledge and leadership through education, research, and engagement with industry and society.

ABOUT THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES (ISF)

Lebanon's principal law enforcement agency, the ISF is committed to ensuring public safety, upholding the law, and fostering trust between citizens and security institutions.

ABOUT OMT

A leading provider of financial services in Lebanon and the first authorized agent of Western Union in the country. OMT is dedicated to compliance, transparency, and social responsibility, contributing to community protection and financial awareness.

ABOUT MENA FCCG

The MENA Financial Crime Compliance Group is a voluntary body comprised of leading MENA banks that seeks to bring collective action in the fight against financial crime in the region and beyond since 2016.

ABOUT GCFFC

The Global Coalition to Fight Financial Crime is a public-private coalition with the aim of enhancing the fight against financial crime globally since 2018. Members include; European Banking Federation, Europol, Atlantic Council, and Basel Institute on Governance.

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